

Meeting Date: January 11, 2006

Agenda Item No. 8

Agenda Item: *Access Yes!* – Rules Governing Licensing (Action)”

Approved by: _____

Prepared by: Brad Compton

Background:

The Commission considers changes to non-biological rules in January each year. Non-biological rules include: method of take, equipment restrictions, allocation of controlled hunt permits/tags, etc. The Landowner Appreciation Permit (LAP) and *Access Yes!* (AY) programs were both developed under the leadership of the Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The Magic Valley currently has the highest numbers of participants in LAP (280 farms/ranches, 700,000 acres private land) and AY (39 contracts, 184,000 acres private land). Both programs have proved popular based on enrollment but program limitations exist and need to be addressed. The Commission directed the Department to develop a 3-year pilot project in the Magic Valley that accommodates more landowners (participants of LAP & AY), increases hunting access, improves habitat, and is cost effective. This launched a public input campaign to determine what incentives (in addition to direct payments) landowners want in exchange for allowing public access for hunting and fishing, and also what sportsmen would support as additional incentives. Non-transferable tags were found to be of interest to landowners and acceptable to sportsmen. This presentation will communicate the rules needed to allow non-transferable Landowner *Access Yes!* Permits.

Rule: Landowner Access Yes! Permits

IDAPA: 13.01.04.404

Issue: As a result of the implementation Magic Valley Pilot Project, the Department will use tags as one form of compensation to landowners to provide access to private lands. This rule change will create Landowner *Access Yes!* Permits

Rule: Definition:

IDAPA: 13.01.04.010.10

Issue: There is no definition of “Immediate Family” in rule.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Commission has the authority to allocate up to an additional 25% of controlled hunt permits for landowners (IDAPA 13.01.04.07(a)).

Public Involvement Process:

Surveys were conducted of all Magic Valley Landowner of 150 acres or greater and of a random sample of sportsmen around the state. The Magic Valley Region has regionally scoped the implementation of the Magic Valley Pilot Project.

Staff Recommendation:

The staff recommends that the commission adopt rules as presented.

Justification:

Commission action required to implement Magic Valley Pilot Project.